US-China Workshop on Standards and Conformity Assessment

Session G on Safety Equipment Standards

Safety Equipment Standards

Industry

> **View of US Government and private sector role in workplace safety**
> > **Daniel K. Shipp, President**
> > **International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA)**

Government

> **US Department of Labor**
> **Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA)**
> > **Edward Sexaur, Chief, Regulatory Development Division,**
> > **Robert Thaxton, Technical Advisor, Mine Health**

> **Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB)**
> > **Zhao Li, Senior Advisor for East Asian and Pacific Affairs**

> **Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)**
> > **Stewart C. Burkhammer, P.E., CSP, OHST**
> > **Director, Office of Construction Services**

> **China State Administration of Work Safety**
> > **Zhen Ping, Deputy Director**
> > **State Administration of Work Safety (SAWS)**

Safety Equipment Standards

Manufacturers Panel
Panelists

Charles S. Ellis
President
North Safety Products

Christopher G. Ryan,
President
Lakeland Industries, Inc.

Robert A. Weber
International Technical Service & Regulatory Affairs Manager
3M Company

Road Construction Industry

Bradley M. Sant, Vice President Safety and Regulatory Affairs,
American Road Transportation Builders Association

US Safety Equipment Standards and Certification

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Overview

- Government safety and health standards regulate the workplace
- Equipment standards set levels of performance
  - Government
  - Voluntary consensus
- Conformity assessment assures product performance to standards

Why safety standards?

Workplace standards

- protect the safety and health of workers
- provide economic benefit to employers

Product standards

- establish performance baseline for safety equipment
- Establish common language for manufacturers, employers, users

Safety & health standards

- US Government standards regulate the workplace
  - Require use of protective equipment that meets product standards
- OSHA regulates general industry, construction
- MSHA regulates mining

For example …

- OSHA PPE standard requires that hard hats, safety eyewear and safety footwear comply with specified ANSI standards or their equivalent.
- OSHA respiratory standard specifies that respirators by NIOSH-certified
- OSHA electrical standards require that products be approved

Equipment standards

- Set minimum levels of performance for worker safety and health
  - Protection from traumatic injury to head, eyes, hands, torso, feet
  - Protection from long-term injury to respiratory system, hearing
- Government or voluntary consensus standards

Government standards

- Developed through rule-making process
- Have the force of law
  - NIOSH respiratory standards
  - EPA noise reduction standards
  - Military specifications
  - 80 federal agencies and departments

Voluntary consensus standards

- Cover most types of PPE
- Developed by consensus
- Impartiality assures competition
- Nationally recognized
- Establish a baseline of performance

Voluntary consensus standards

- ANSI recognized standards
- NFPA standards for fire and emergency services, electrical installation
- ASTM standards and test methods
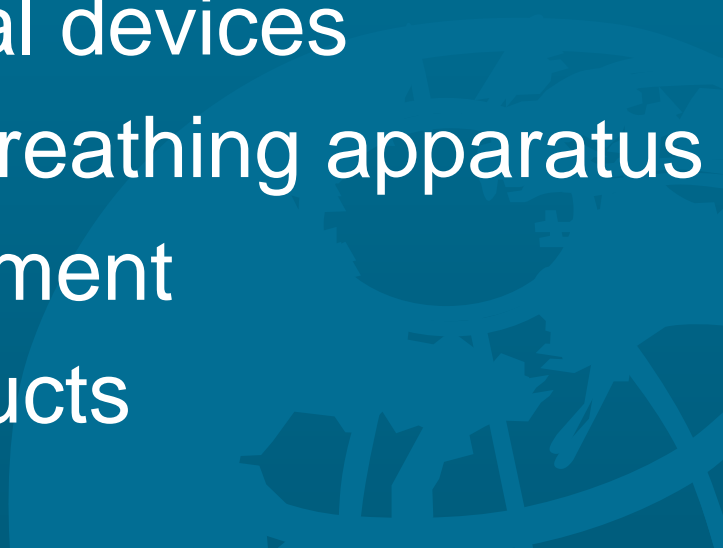- 600+ organizations

International standards

- US participation in ISO, IEC
  - ANSI is the official member
  - US Technical Advisory Group (USTAG)
- US acceptance of international standards
- Other US standards used around the world

Conformity assessment

- System for determining that a product, process or service conforms to specified requirements.
- Certification is to a level of performance outlined in a standard or regulation

- Certification may be done by:
  - government agency
  - manufacturer
  - independent organization – third-party

Mandatory certification

Government

- FDA - drugs and medical devices
- NIOSH - respirators & breathing apparatus
- MSHA - electrical equipment
- CPSC - consumer products
- USDA

Mandatory certification

Industry

- NFPA – fire and emergency services
- NEC – electrical installations
- BOCA – building codes
- ASHRAE

Self-certification

- Most common method in the U.S.
- Manufacturers test and label products
- It works!
  - product liability laws - tort claims
  - informed consumers
  - market size and competition
  - truth in labeling laws

Third-party certification

- Ongoing product testing to a recognized standard
- QA audit and monitoring
- Certification mark for approved products
  - UL, FM
  - SEI

Global perspective

- More reliance on mandatory testing & certification
    - serves global market needs
    - government involvement
- International standards organizations
    - U.S. participation
    - influence on domestic standards

In summary...

- Standards establish performance requirements
- Certification is the system for indicating conformity to standards
- OSHA regulates the workplace, not products